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Volume 13, Number 19

## STUDY SHOWS MORE BLACK MALES ARE LOSING VOTING RIGHTS

WASHINGTON, DC—According to a report released by the Washington, DC-based Sentencing Project, one in seven African-American males have lost their voting rights due to incarceration and felony convictions. An estimated 1.46 million Black males have lost the right to vote. The study discovered that about 510,000 Black males are permanently disenfranchised in 13 states. The remaining 950,000 are ineligible to vote in 31 states for the term of their incarceration, probation or parole. Only four states, Maine, Massachusetts, Utah and Vermont, allow prison inmates to vote. The report also found that the disparity between the number of Black and whites incarcerated, increased in 38 states and Washington, DC between 1985 and 1994. Nationally African Americans were incarcerated at more than 10 times the rate of whites. New York and California were the only two states that showed less racial disparity, but only because of the large number of Hispanics who are classified as "white." When Hispanics are excluded from the "white" inmate classification, the report found that the Black/white disparity in California doubled.

## FOUR GEORGIA MEN INDICTED FOR BURNING BLACK COUPLE'S HOME

SAVANNAH, GA—Four Georgian men have been arrested on civil rights charges for conspiring to set fire to a trailer home belonging to a Black couple, the Justice Department announced. The three-count indictment, handed down in US District Court in Savannah, charges Razel Spies, 35, Jo Spies, 19, Mac Nathaniel Rainey, 20, and Tommy James Hulet, 20, with violating federal criminal civil rights laws. The four allegedly conspired to burn a trailer home in order to frighten away the Black owners, Carrie McRae and Oscar Lee Riley. The trailer was located in Telfair County, GA, about 100 miles southeast of Macon. "These defendants understand our commitment to vigorously prosecuting these types of crimes," said Isabelle Katz Pinzler, assistant attorney general for Civil Rights. Each defendant faces up to 10 years in prison and \$250,000 fine for count one: Conspiring to violate the civil rights of the Black couple and count two: Interfering with the couple's right to live in their dwelling free from violence and intimidation. Count three, using fire in the commission of a felony, carries an additional five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

## WORLD BANK CHIEF TO VISIT 'TOP PRIORITY CONTINENT'

Washington, DC (IPS)—World Bank President James Wolfensohn is embarking on a nine-day trip to sub-Saharan Africa to try to fathom why the region has posted its second straight year of economic growth and how to increase foreign investment there. Economic growth, at about four percent a year continent-wide, exceeds population growth in some 24 out of 48 African countries. Yet, foreign investment in these countries accounts for only about two percent of private capital flows worldwide, according to Wolfensohn. "I will go and see for myself what is happening and discuss how to sustain and build on the gains resulting from improved policies," Wolfensohn said before leaving. "Africa is the World Bank's top priority and we want to strengthen our partnerships with the region."



# CITY NEWS

Serving New Jersey's African American Communities Since 1983

February 26- March 4, 1997

## Educators, Business, Community & Political Leaders, join to help youth Say 'YES' to their future

By Daryle Lamont Jenkins

NEWARK—"Way before Hillary Clinton got into the White House, we understood the saying 'It Takes a Village,'" said Jan Johnson, President of YES Communications, Inc. and Mistress of Ceremony to the Youth YES to Your Future New Jersey 1997 kickoff. The event was a huge success, bringing public servants, corporate executives, clergy and community organizations to the school's library. The Malcolm X Shabazz High School, all with a desire to contribute to the future of young people.

About seventy people were in attendance inside the school's library which began with greetings by Principal Mary G. Bennett, and the co-presidents of the school's Student Government Association, Fuquan Jackson and Arta Aponash. Jan Johnson introduced the program to the audience and the Invocation was given by the Reverend Moses Knott, President of the East Orange Clergy. The Malcolm X Shabazz High School Chorus sang the Negro National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

Mayor Sharpe James gave remarks that reflected on his days as a student at the high school, then known as South Side High, and talked of how the school has given the country three mayors—himself, former mayor of New York City Ed Koch, and John Jenkins, mayor of Lewiston, Maine who is now a Maine state senator. He reminded the audience that youth are looking to adults for hope and guidance, and adults need to be there. "We can't give enough time to our young people," he said. "We can't reach out and touch them enough now. They need us, we need them, and together we can overcome."

Both Mayor James and Congressman Donald Payne spoke of the attacks made by various elements in

government against the urban community, from affirmative action to the dismantling of welfare. Congressman Payne, who had his first teaching position at the school in the late 50s, was very pleased at the turnout. "It makes me feel good because it makes me believe again that we are going to be able to overcome the problem that's in front of us as a community," he said. He talked of the importance of the Black press, and how important YES will be in solving those problems. "At my first Congressional Black Caucus Panel eight years ago, when I was first elected, we had Dr. and Mrs. Johnson on our panel with young people to talk about the problems of young people, so they really know what it's about," he said.

Dr. Henry Johnson, the publisher of YES explained the mission of the program, which he stated was "to encourage young people to take the initiative to make things happen for themselves. We know that they're talented," he said. "Throughout the world they have impacted fashion, arts and entertainment. There is no reason why we cannot build a nation of achievers."

He stressed, however, that the road to achievement will not be an easy one. "It's hard work," he said, "and what we've got to let our young people know is they have got to be willing to pay the price to excel."

Ben O'Neal of the Newark Board of Education represented the Newark Schools and introduced Al-Malik Williams, 17 a Senior at Malcolm X Shabazz, the president of the Newark Youth Leadership 2000, a student board of the students of all thirteen high schools in the city, and member of the ROTC color guard that represented the US and New Jersey flags for the program. His remarks were those of thanks to YES Magazine "for



Jill Johnson, creator and executive director of Say "YES" to your Future shows Congressman Donald Payne to the statewide initiative



Newark Mayor Sharpe James gives remarks, remembers his days at "South Side High"



NAACP State President, Elaine Harrison, pledges to support Say "YES"

See SAY YES/page 7

## King conspiracy theories continue

By Woody Baird  
Associated Press Writer

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—For all the modern technology exists that might prove one or all of James Earl Ray's rifle killed Martin Luther King Jr., a judge said in a decision that keeps alive Ray's quest for a trial.

The decision on February 20 by Judge Joe Brown must now be reviewed by a state appeals court before he can rule on whether to allow the tests on the rifle and the bullet taken from King's body.

Ray, who pleaded guilty to the 1968 slaying, reversed himself almost immediately and has been requesting a trial ever since. He asked for the rifle tests in an attempt to take back his guilty plea and go to trial—a move supported by King's widow and son.

King, perhaps America's most

revered civil rights leader, was killed in the midst of a campaign pushing for equality for racial minorities. The date of his birth, January 15, is honored as a national holiday.

"Even if no new light is shed on the facts concerning my husband's assassination, at least we and the nation can have the satisfaction of knowing that justice has run its course in this tragedy," Coretta Scott King told the judge.

Added Dexter King: "If this is such an open-and-shut case, why are we still being asked the question: Do you believe Mr. Ray killed your father?"

Ray, who is serving a 99-year prison sentence, is now 68 and suffering from serious liver disease, which his lawyers describe as terminal.

Mrs. King said her family has declined over the years to get involved in efforts to get a trial for Ray but his

failing health requires that now.

"If Mr. Ray is denied a trial," she said, "our family and indeed the entire nation will also be denied the due process of law that is the birthright of every citizen."

Ray contends that his rifle, identified for almost 30 years as the murder weapon, was not the one that killed King.

To rule on Ray's request, Brown had to first decide if today's technology for such tests is better than it was in the late 1960s and 1970s when the rifle was last examined.

"All I'm trying to say is there appears to be scientific methodology that has a reasonable likelihood or is capable, let's put it that way, of resolving this issue," Brown said.

Brown approved Ray's request for new tests on the rifle in 1994 but was overturned by the appeals court. Because of that, any decisions he

makes on Ray's petition must be looked at by the higher court. Brown did not know when the appeals court would review his decision.

Conspiracy theorists have argued for years that Ray, a bungling, petty criminal, could not have pulled off the assassination alone. And their theories, some of which include allegations of government wrongdoing, often note that authorities have never proven that Ray's gun was the murder weapon.

Ray contends the 30-06 Remington rifle found at the murder scene with his fingerprints on it was put there by murder conspirators trying to frame him.

Ray said he bought the rifle in Alabama and brought it to Memphis on instructions from a shadowy gun runner he knew only as Raoul. Authorities have never established Raoul's existence.

See KING CONSPIRACY/page 2

## 700 turn out for Masons 15th Annual Breakfast



Charles Knight, Grand Master, makes presentation to US District Judge Williams H. Walls

WOODBRIIDGE, NJ—More than 700 hundred friends, guests and members attended the 15th Annual Job Lodge International F. & A.M. Masons Annual Breakfast at The Landmark Inn, Sunday February 16 in Woodbridge.

The event included a presentation of the Black Heritage Flag, and a performance by the United Youth Drill Team of Elizabeth. Grand Master Charles Knight welcomed this years attendees and International Board member, Clifford Aldred, served as master of ceremony.

Woodbridge Mayor and Assemblyman, James McGreevy welcomed the group as did Gerald Green, Assemblyman for the 17th district which includes: Linden, Roselle, and Plainfield. Rev. Dr. Willie Simmons, conference coordinator, introduced the dais guests which included: Essex County Prosecutor, Clifford Scott; Newark Councilman Donald Tucker; NJ Superior Court Judge, Betty J. Lester and former mayor of Newark Kenneth Gibson.

See MASON/page 6

## REMEMBERING THE MOVEMENT

## Taking Action

by Sonya Kimble-Ellis

"I realized that in order to change things, you had to influence the mayor or become the mayor," Ken Gibson, former Mayor of Newark, told City News in a recent interview. And that's exactly what he did. In July of 1970, Gibson became the City's first black Mayor and is the only Mayor to serve four terms.

Although Gibson arrived at City Hall toward the end of the Civil Rights era, he was actively involved in the movement during the '60s. At the time, he was co-chair of the Business and



Newark New Jersey's first black mayor, Kenneth Gibson

Industrial Coordinating Council, a job-finding organization for minorities, whose membership was comprised of individuals from various civil rights organizations.

According to Gibson, there were very few black bank tellers, bus drivers or workers employed at restaurants and fast food establishments. "The BICC and C.O.R.E. helped change that by conducting letter writing campaigns, helping minorities find jobs, and picketing," Gibson explained.

Racial incidents in the south called for immediate and extreme action, but Newark had its concerns too. As a result, Gibson and some of his associates often traveled south to attend conferences and seminars. "We focused on a number of issues," Gibson said, "but we also focused on employment. Employment had always been a big issue for our people."

Newark's segregation and discrimination practices during the 1960's were clear, Gibson asserted that one of the only differences Newark had from cities in the south was that blacks had the right to vote. It disturbs Gibson, though, that now many individuals don't realize the importance of voting.

"One of the things that is frustrating to those of us who grew up during that time," he said, "is that we understand that there are a lot of people who fought and died for that right. More people should respect that. I know what the benefits of voting can do."

Gibson's entrance to City Hall was not without stress. "It was traumatic to say the least," Gibson confirmed. He explained that civil rights groups in Newark suffered during the early '70s because whites felt that with a black Mayor in office, there was no longer a need to support civil rights organizations. "One advantage to having a black Mayor," Gibson continued, "was that black people were more comfortable coming to City Hall."

Ken Gibson, who is currently running for the position of Essex County executive, is President of Gibson Associates, a consulting firm specializing in finance, development, investment, engineering and planning.

If you have a story about the civil rights movement, share it with City News readers. Contact Sonya at

City News  
PO Box 1774  
Plainfield, NJ 07060

## Community Calendar

FEB 26, MAR 5, 19, APR 2

**WAYNE**—Interactive television (ITV) courses can be taken at William Patterson College, Hasbrouck Heights High School, Westwood High School, or School #26 in Paterson. For more information, call 201-595-2436.

THROUGH MAY 10

**JERSEY CITY**—Jersey City State College offers a preparation course for the NJ Real Estate Salesperson's (Agent) Licensing Examination on Saturdays 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the JCSC campus at 2039 Kennedy Blvd. For further information call (201) 200-3089.

THROUGH MAR. 27

**UPPER MONTCLAIR**—An eight-week "English as Second Language" program is being offered at Montclair State University. Registration will be held on Jan. 13 and 15. For more information call (201) 665-4353.

FEBRUARY 26

**Compassionate Care Hospice** is desperately in search of dedicated individuals who would be interested in volunteering their time to work with the mentally ill. Volunteers would provide companionship, emotional support, respite care, or run an errand or babysit. Volunteers are also needed to do office work (filing, copying, putting packets together). For more information, call Lisa Morano, 908-916-1400.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

**MCMAHOON**—The Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders will have a workshop meeting at 2 p.m. and a regular meeting at 8 p.m. For more information call (908) 431-7287.

FEBRUARY 26-APRIL 15

**Black History Month**

# Black History Month

THROUGH FEBRUARY 28

**PLAINFIELD**—Exhibit/booker T. Washington Silver Hall Dollars. Slave dolls by crafts person Shirley Banks. In the main lobby, Plainfield Public Library, 8th Street and Park Ave. For more information, call 908-757-1111.

THROUGH MARCH 31

**MONTCLAIR**—Exhibit in honor of Black History Month at the Israel Crane House. For more information, call 1-800-JERSEY7.

THROUGH APRIL 25

**NEW YORK**—Art exhibit, "African-American Pioneers" at the Seagram gallery, 375 Park Ave. For more information, call 212-572-7379.

FEBRUARY 22, MARCH 1, 8, 15, 22

**NORTH BRANCH**—Sky Show. Follow the Drinking Gourd" which will teach the importance of the Big Dipper to runaway slaves at the Planetarium at Northern Virginia Community College, the 28 & Lamingford Rd. For more information call (908) 231-8905.

**INGLEWOOD**—"Freedom Train," the true story of Harriet Tubman, at the John H. France Theater. For more information, call 1-800-JERSEY7.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

**EAST ORANGE**—Marsha Pickett screens the Martin Riggins film "Electric Notions with discussion to follow, 6 pm at the Black United Fund of New Jersey Headquarters. For more information, call 201-67-NJUBF.

**NEWARK**—Inspirational and Motivational Assembly, at Barringer High School. Speaker will be Rev. Reginald Burt, Director of the New Jersey Youth Group, and performances will be by the Barringer High School Band, Chorus & Drama Group. For more information, call 201-733-8677.

**Television program**, "Clarence Fountain: Five Blind Boys and Alvin Ailey's 'Revelations'" will air on ODSEY (formerly Faith & Values channel) at 10 pm, and will repeat at 1 am. The Five Blind Boys gospel group perform with Clarence Fountain and talk about the development of gospel music. "Revelations" is a production by Alvin Ailey's Dance Theater using traditional gospel music and spirituals to express deep feelings for the African-American roots in the South.

**Television program**, "Biography: Nelson Mandela." Documentary. On the A&E.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

**Who is making a difference in your community?**

## Tell City News about them.

FAX: attn, CN People at 908-753-1036

Mail to: CN People at P.O. Box 1774

Plainfield N.J. 07060

## SUMMIT BANCORP HOSTS "BLACK AMERICAN ARTISTS"



Summit Bancorp, Princeton, and The Crossroads Theatre Company, New Brunswick, celebrated the opening of "Black American Artists" at a reception held February 19 at Summit headquarters. The works of seven noted, area artists are being exhibited at the Princeton location in celebration of Black History Month. The show will continue through March, with gallery hours Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Pictured left to right: Pat Jones (Curator, Crossroads Theater), Carlton Murrell (Artist), Ann Dolly Wallace (Artist), Rudy Gibson (Artist), Bernard Jackson (Artist), Ezra Stewart (Artist), T. Joseph Semrod (Chairman & CEO, Summit Bancorp).

## Maurice Mills wins first place in AAA contest



**STATE WINNER**—Maurice Mills, a sixth grade student at Thurgood Marshall School in Irvington, captured first place in the AAA Clubs of New Jersey annual State School Traffic Safety Poster Program. Mills was awarded a \$100 prize for his poster, "Cooperate With Your Safety Patrol." He's pictured (from left to right) with Jennifer Semrod, assistant manager of public relations for the AAA New Jersey Automobile Club in Florham Park, and his art teacher, Karl Majewski.

Irvington, NJ—Hard work and creativity helped Maurice Mills win first place in the AAA Clubs of New Jersey annual State School Traffic Safety Poster Program. Mills, a sixth grade student at Thurgood Marshall School in Irvington, had his poster selected from among 1,000 entries submitted by students from across the state.

Mills won first place in the elementary category (grades 4-6) and was awarded a \$100 prize by the AAA New Jersey Automobile Club in Florham Park. His entry, "Cooperate With Your Safety Patrol" now goes on to the national judging which will be held at the AAA headquarters in Heathrow, Florida in late May.

This year's poster program themes are "Cooperate With Your Safety Patrol" and "Walk Facing Traffic" (Grades K-6), and "Be Seen After Dark" and "Develop the Safety Belt Habit" (Grades 7-9). First, second and third place winners were selected from the following grade categories: primary (K-3), elementary (4-6), junior (7-9) and senior (10-12).

## King Conspiracy

Continued from page 1

The FBI and the U.S. House Select Committee on Assassinations tested the rifle in the 1970s but could not establish beyond a scientific doubt that it was the murder weapon.

Their tests showed, however, that King was killed by the same kind of gun.

Robert Hathaway, a firearms specialist from Vernon, Conn., told Brown that a modern piece of equipment called a scanning electron microscope might be able to prove if Ray's rifle fired the fatal shot.

Two other specialists called by Ray's lawyer gave similar testimony. But James J. Cadigan, an FBI agent with the bureau's crime lab, said it is doubtful the tests Ray wants would prove much beyond what investigators already know about the rifle and death slug.

Prosecutor John Campbell said Ray has exhausted his appeal and would still be guilty, as a co-conspirator, even if the fatal shot was fired by someone else.

Jesse Jackson, who was with King in Memphis on the day of the assassination, emerged from a White House meeting Thursday urging that a trial be held for Ray.

"We're all restless until we get to the bottom of all of the elements to the conspiracy to kill Dr. King," Jackson said. "James Earl Ray was in the middle of killing Dr. King, but was not in it

## Your Weekly Horoscope

BY MISS ANNA

**IF THIS WEEK IS YOUR BIRTHDAY:** Everything seems to be such a big chore lately. It may be because you are physically and mentally rundown. Start taking better care of yourself and you'll discover a whole new you. There may be a lot of pressure on you at work, learn to delegate tasks and leave the work behind while you are at home.

PISCES: (February 20 - March 20)

Now is as good of time as any to become thrifty. Think before you part with your hard earned cash. You have a few far out ideas and opinions, and if pressed on them only cause confusion and maybe hostility. Don't push your luck by saying or doing anything foolish.

ARIES: (March 21-April 20)

Timing seems to be very good, so it's best to take advantage of promoting business ideas or career advancement. Devote a majority of your efforts to job interests and you'll be amazed at just how much is accomplished.

TAURUS: (April 21-May 21)

Misleading news about those close to you may arise. Be on guard and make no decisions until you have all the facts straight. Self-interest will motivate you, although you may be torn between waiting to excel in a particular matter, or share the spotlight.

GEMINI: (May 22-June 21)

Travel is in the works, make sure to plan your itinerary carefully, creating some time for pleasure. You'll come up with an idea concerning business or relationship interests that may sound great, but don't expect everyone else to share your interest.

CANCER: (June 22-July 23)

Your view of the immediate future will benefit your ability to firm up romantic ties, and encourage supervisors at work to have added confidence in you. This dependability you portray inspires faith into those who surround you. Guard against poor judgement.

LEO: (July 24-August 23)

Try to modify your views, if necessary, to ensure peace on the homefront. Displaying a defensive attitude may produce actions that may be regretted later. You may have to deal with a few headstrong individuals, and an argument is inevitable.

VIRGO: (August 24-September 23)

You may be in the mood to have things your own way, but it may not be the best of times to insist on it. Back off if someone seriously challenges you. Some inside information may make it possible to put a few extra dollars in your pocket, possibly real estate.

LIBRA: (September 24-October 23)

A few of your ideas are impractical, but that doesn't mean you need to give up completely on them. It's time to capitalize on your gregarious nature and push ahead with any projects involving your career path - the more supporters you can gather, the better.

SCORPIO: (October 24-November 22)

There may be an unexpected message coming your way that may momentarily throw you off balance both emotionally and financially. Make sure to keep the lines of communication open with family members. Financial advice is especially regarding any new investments.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 23-December 21)

If you use your imagination, there may be a delightful romantic surprise just around the corner for you. There may be confusion in regards to a social or romantic date that may cause frustration earlier in the week. Good vibes are developing for future career goals.

CAPRICORN: (December 22-January 20)

You have a chance to strengthen an important relationship which signals success for any long range dependability. Try to keep a tight rein on your temper and reactions to others. If you speak before you think, feelings may be hurt and explanations will be difficult.

AQUARIUS: (January 21-February 19)

Your timing seems to be off, and if you do not decide to reach someone you've been trying to get ahold of. If it can, the conversation may not be what you expected. You may also have to readjust your thinking or re-evaluate your goals, a major decision is close at hand.

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# EDITORIAL

## Tell young people to take charge

At a recent breakfast of Job Lodge International F & A M, Masons, keynote speaker, US District Judge William H. Walls told an enthusiastic audience, that adults have to stop lying to their children and tell them that success in sports and entertainment is not and will not be the solution for the problems of black people and black communities. Without pulling any punches, he was telling parents and listeners that young people have to be guided by more than the media hype and advertising ploys which seduce our kids to worship athletes and entertainers.

Similarly, more the 70 men and women attended the Kick of Say "Yes" to Your Future New Jersey, an initiative of YES Magazine to encourage teens to find their reason to excel and take charge of their success. The message in both instances are similar. We have to prepare our young today to be critical thinkers, determined to succeed, prepared to meet the unknown, and committed to being life-long learners.

Schools "YES" to Your Future is intended to jump start a movement in schools to get youth in urban schools to take charge, develop a plan to succeed and follow the plan. While much of school reform focuses on items that make sense to faculty and administrators, the responsibility of young people to themselves and community are often ignored. City News commends the sponsors and individuals who believe that adults have an obligation to help young people understand their power to take charge and influence their destiny.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Do The Right Thing

Dear Editor:

Should Governor Whitman name an African American to the Board of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority at first blush seems commendable. However, when examined closely, it turns out to be just another prelection political ploy.

SAGE supported the Governor initially, with the hope that she would respond to burning issues that had not been addressed by the prior governor. According to a post of SAGE's more than 1200 members and associates, the support for African Americans within autonomous agencies have worsened since her election. Complaints of biases abound, yet nothing is done. While retired African American professional athletes such as Earl Monroe, Bernard King, Ron Johnson, Otis Anderson, George Martin, Harry Carson and former Notre Dame star Aubrey Lewis, (who has already served as a commissioner) are held in high regard, their celebrity status promotes her campaign window dressing.

Instead of hyping a retired African American sports figure to embellish her so called "Many Faces, One Family," Governor Whitman needs to make good her promises to assure fair and equitable employment opportunities at these agencies. We need, deserve and want fair treatment. Indeed, she should do the right thing.

Jerry J. Jackson, Chairman of SAGE

## Teachers want Council to do something

Dear Editor:

Newark Teachers' Association deplores the inactivity of the Mayor and the Municipal Council in the face of the many very serious issues that have arisen since the State of New Jersey unconscionably stripped our elected school board of its powers. Rather than education, events have shown that the state takeover of our schools is about control of the school budget, somewhere around half a billion dollars annually.

We no longer even know what our school budget is in the city of Newark, because the State keeps it a secret. This is illegal, and sets a threatening precedent for school governance everywhere. Our municipal elected officials have failed to raise this basic issue on any kind of an issue. The media for that part have also failed to investigate the question. This the State is allowed to continue with this despicable practice in the absence of any kind of public outcry.

Around one third of our graduating seniors every year are now denied their diplomas by reason of failure to pass the High School Proficiency Test. Again the Mayor and the City Council have failed to inform the public of the problem and to raise any question of how and why it came about, particularly as to the State's role.

Hundreds of school workers who live in the city have been fired by the State administration, even as the number of high-paid administrators, mostly imported from other states, has quadrupled. Wasteful and otherwise questionable state contracts have been let, like the outrageous \$2.5 million Sylvan Learning Centers deal. Hundreds of teachers have been let go or else have left without being replaced. Class sizes have increased to a serious degree all over the city. Most of the high schools have descended to a state of daily chaos. Dozens of school personnel have been suspended in a psychology kickback scam, but people in other districts have not, raising an equal treatment issue. The Mayor and the Council say nothing. The Council established a dwatwotch committee for the schools last year, but we have heard nothing from it in spite of all of these terrible abuses. We hope that the Council did not just set it up as a sham to make it look like they intended to do something, while intending to do nothing.

It is imperative that our elected officials begin to do their duty and look into these and many other questions that have arisen since the State stripped us of our right to vote for our school board. If present trends continue, we may find ourselves deprived of the right to vote for any local elected officials.

Ethel Sykes, President, Newark Teachers' Assoc.

## Give Alexis Herman A Hearing Date!

The US Senate should quickly confirm Alexis Herman as Secretary of Labor.

As with new Clinton Administration nominees Rodney Slater, Madeline Albright and Richard Cohen, the Herman nomination will likely even pass by a commanding margin. The problem now is that the Labor and Human Resources Committee has indefinitely delayed even a confirmation hearing for him.

As a result of inaccurate news reports linking Ms. Herman to admittedly improper political fund raising activities associated with a White House meeting President Bill Clinton held with officials from the Controller of the Currency Eugene Ludwig over coffee, her confirmation process has been put on the back-burner.

Meanwhile, a strong support network, headed by the National Political Congress of Black women, and joined by the National Urban League, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, The Coalition of 100 Black Men, The Links, Inc., the National Urban League and now the Black Press, is calling for immediate hearings and forthright confirmation.

Letters supporting the nomination have already been streaming in to Sen. J. William Rockefeller, a Vermont Republican, who chairs the Labor Committee, to Senate Majority Leader Trent

Lott of Mississippi, to Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, the ranking Democrat on the Committee and to Senate Minority Leader Thomas Daschle of South Dakota on behalf of Ms. Herman.

More letters are needed now, not only to those leaders, but to all the members of the Labor and Human Resources Committee—Republican Senators Dan Coats (IN), Judd Gregg (NH), Bill Frist (TN), Mike DeWine (OH), Mike Enzi (WY), Tim Hutchinson (AR) and Democrats Christopher Dodd (CT), Tom Harkin (IA), Barbara Mikulski (MD), Jeff Bingaman (NM), Paul Wellstone (MN), Patty Murray (WA) and Jack Reed (RI). Each can be written to at the US Senate, Washington, DC, 20510.

The Herman nomination ran into trouble when information was erroneously reported that she had a role in the ever-broadening campaign finance scandal involving the Clinton White House and the Democratic National Committee (DNC), a scandal which, to date, a deep investigation by the Republican National Committee, The Hatch Act forbids government appointments, such as Ms. Herman, from engaging in purely political activities on government time.

The fact is that Ms. Herman did not organize the infamous May 13 coffee meeting with the President, bank

executives and banking officials. In fact, when she learned—the morning of the event—that DNC officials were scheduled to attend, she actually chose not to attend, so as to avoid any possible improper participation. A letter from the White House Staff Secretary Todd Stern to Committee Chairman Jeffords states that issue plain. "What these documents confirm is that the only list of attendees that Ms. Herman saw prior to the event mentioned neither DNC officials nor Mr. Ludwig," Mr. Stern wrote.

"She has been a successful businesswoman and a leader in efforts to bring minorities into the economic mainstream," President Clinton said of her. "And for the past four years as Director of the White House Office of Public Liaison, she has been my eyes and ears, working to connect the American people, business and labor, individuals and communities with their government."

Ms. Herman offers "an extraordinary wealth of experience in the labor field and a deep understanding of improving the well-being of working people," wrote National Urban League President Hugh Price. She uniquely understands the aspirations and needs of working women based on her previous position as Director of the Women's Bureau at the Department of Labor. "We believe that she

would bring a welcome combination of compassion, intelligence, mediation skills and integrity to this pivotal position in the federal government."

And while the White House promises to stand by this deserving appointee, who at age 29 became the youngest woman to head the Labor Department's Women's Bureau, under President Jimmy Carter in 1977 who served as Deputy Chair of the DNC, would then Chairman Robert Brown, who served as Democratic Convention manager for the Jackson for President Campaign in 1988 and who served as co-director of the Clinton Presidential Transition in 1992—similar promises were made to Justice Department nominee Luis Guinier and to Surgeon General nominee Dr. Henry Foster when their appointments first received unflattering media attention.

Pressure must be maintained on both ends of Washington's famous Pennsylvania Avenue—: at the White House and at the Capitol. Alexis Herman, DC, "superchoice" to be Secretary of Labor.

When the Senate reconvenes February 25 after Holiday recess, its leadership should be met with a mountain of letters, faxes, and phone messages indicating that its first order of business must be scheduling a hearing on her confirmation to that post!

### FROM FROM CAPITOL HILL:

## People Before Profits

By Asika Muhammad

WASHINGTON—It is not often that I agree with President Bill Clinton when he is in sharp disagreement with a widely respected and successful African American leader. But I do agree to say The White Man is correct, and Black Enterprise magazine publisher Earl Graves sounds like he was having delusions in a recent New York City spat over welfare. "It's unrealistic and naive to expect private sector in general and black-owned businesses in particular to sacrifice profit margins in order to do the government's job," Mr. Graves told Mr. Clinton regarding the President's suggestion that Black businesses should take a risk on hiring the previously unemployed who are being forced off the welfare rolls.

"Now, I'm not here to defend the Republican welfare reform bill which the President signed last summer, after vetoing two earlier versions. Maybe the President should not have signed any welfare reform bill, but he is the President of 'all the people,' and most of the people are white middle-class, and tired of supporting people they consider deadbeats on the dole. Mr. Clinton's signature on the welfare reform bill may have just kicked off a long, painful, and white folks to vote for him to get him re-elected.

The same liberal crowd that is now protesting this welfare reform most loudly, are the President's core constituents. They are the ones who pulled the bulk of the support at the polls last November to put the guy back into office.

True, there are structural problems in the society: the least of which is that there really are no jobs "out there" waiting on the uneducated, un-disciplined, un-trained and needy masses who will soon be looking for work, for 35 years I've heard Americans debate the question of whether or not there should even be full employment in this society. Furthermore there is no adequate source

of affordable child care for single parents of young children living in welfare.

One out of three people in the fiber of my being that the richest Americans simply have too much money. If they didn't they wouldn't be wasting it in the profligate manner we see them waste. If they didn't they wouldn't be making non-charitable contributions from one family in one year, for example...but I digress.

Mr. Graves publishes a magazine dedicated to Black success in the marketplace. He should be the last person complaining about being asked to lead the way in helping to uplift the downtrodden Black masses. He should have already been doing it, instead of complaining that "It is my job to focus on the bottom line" and answer to (my) shareholders.

Answer to your suffering people in need of your helping hand once in a while, for crying out loud!

But I am a silly person for thinking that in America, a "captain of industry" such as Mr. Graves would give even a tinker's damn about poor Black

people, except that it is, when those poor welfare recipients living in the projects, who are buying the Pepsi-Cola products. He is owner of the Pepsi bottling franchise in DC.

It's time for poor people like the welfare recipient who complained to the DNC about the area purchase of "gray trains" to over, and there will be no more free rides What's wrong with cleaning toilets? It's honest work. Those people should be glad they are not committed to the mental institutions for thinking that society owes them a life of ease.

And, it's time for people like Earl Graves to share their success. It's time for people like Earl Graves to consider people before profits, and to teach the needy how to fish, so they can feed themselves, rather than to insist that the government simply supply them with a free fish every day.

## Wishing a story would go away

habited by people of color.

The lone voice in this wilderness of community and media denial had been Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA) who has kept this issue on her personal front burner. Waters has tried to get her colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) to join her in pushing for hearings and supporting her resolution demanding the same. Regrettably, she has not gotten much support. In the caucus, most members of the CBC represent areas that are overwhelmed with crack cocaine and the violence that often comes with this terrible substance. Recognizing the blatant coverage and the spin on the part of too many elected officials, an African American media watchdog group has joined the fray.

The New York-based Committee to Eliminate Media Offense To African People (CEMOTAP) bought several dozen of its estimated 1600 members to Capitol Hill to visibly show their support for Congresswoman

Waters and to urge other members of the CBC to show their commitment in more tangible ways. James McDermott, executive director of CEMOTAP, says that the apparent lack of participation in part of CBC members may or may not indicate a lack of support on their part. "The media doesn't always tell the whole story, so we came to find out to what level they have actually been supporting Congresswoman Waters' efforts. It's possible that they are doing something that we are hearing nothing about. However, it doesn't seem that we are hearing from the members of the Congressional Black Caucus in the New York area," McDermott observed.

Walking through the halls of Congress often produces diplomacy when other tactics are required. The fact is that members of CEMOTAP haven't heard much because there hasn't been anything to hear from members in their area or others. The mainstream press has indeed expended lots of

energy in trying to make the story disappear. McDermott and others have noted several glaring omissions. "Most of the media reports started with the reputation of the Mercury News story. The omission are the names of the individuals, the details of how this crack epidemic was spread, and the role of the CIA and its possible link to why this problem is nationwide," an animated McDermott noted. Crack cocaine is not just a scourge that is found on the West Coast. One would have to be in a complete state of denial not to notice that it's all around you. We want your attention is focused on many other things, the ranks of those who could best be described as "walking dead" are increasing along with the "merchants of poison." Just because one group doesn't want to talk about the problem doesn't mean that it doesn't exist.

George Wilson is a 16-year Capitol Hill correspondent for the American Urban Radio Network

## CITY NEWS

The New Journal of Civilization

By John W. Templeton

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Serving the African American community for 13 years

I was listening to an African-American businessman report that in 1997 for the first time, advertiser spending targeted to African-American consumers would exceed \$1 billion.

Although it sounded like a lot, something made me ask, "Compared to what?" I took a few weeks to nail down the number I was looking for—

the total amount spent on advertising in the United States, \$115 billion in 1997, according to investment house Veronis Suhler and Associates. What difference does this make to you? Well, if you think your local Black newspaper should have more color pictures or a bigger staff of writers or add more sections; or if you wonder why your local television station has no shows that covers your community or only shows them after midnight, then these figures make a big difference to you. If you also wonder why the only advertisements you see

on billboards in your neighborhood are for malt liquor or tobacco, then these figures make a big difference to you.

And when big issues like O.J., Ethnics or Rodney King come up and the mainstream media are obliterated by a torrent of hostile media, it all goes back to the big disparity in advertising dollars.

Let's discuss what real parity might mean—about \$13.8 billion in advertising revenue based on the 12 percent African-American percentage of the population. Even if we take the much smaller African-American percentage of the national income—three percent—the figure should be \$3.3 billion. A good portion of the advertising directed towards the African-American community is focused in February, because of Black History Month. Although we're supposed to feel good when corporations recognize that history, we must take a hard look at what they're really saying with a quarter-page ad once per year.

## get what you get

Successful publications get consistent advertising from their readers, based on the market they're going after. Anyone who really wants Black consumers must realize that they are customers all year around. There isn't a single major national advertiser who devotes at least three percent of their advertising budget to the black market. That has to be a new benchmark for consumers who evaluate who to do business with. If you spend your money without requiring a merchant to even woo you, then that's why you get what you get.

So ask your grocer or auto dealer, restaurant, bank, phone company or furniture store, how they do business worth three percent of their marketing budget. Let them know that their response will determine whether you do business with them. Once enough of us do that, we'll get a lot more of what we want—a fair portrait of who we are.

John William Templeton is executive editor of the *Grass*, African-American and Caribbean business daily.

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# OPERATION TAKE BACK TO BE HELD

**ASBURY PARK**—An anti-crime rally called Operation Take Back the Street is scheduled for Friday, February 28, from 6 pm to 12 Midnight. It's focus is to address the poor conditions in the Springfield Ave., which has long suffered from the influx of crime and drugs in the area. The community is asked to come out, park along Springfield Ave. from Ridge Ave. to Atkins Ave., and stand along the street with sign and placards. If you are part of an organization, it is asked that it is noted somewhere on the sign. Security will be provided by C.O.P.S. (Community Oriented Police Services) and the Asbury Park Police Explorer Post #187. For more information, call George Corbin, 908-502-5780, or 712-7993, pager.

# C.A.S.H. SCHOOL TO PROVIDE PARENTS WITH COURSE DETAILS

**PLAINFIELD**—A parent information session on the C.A.S.H. (Careers in the Arts, Sciences and Humanities) middle school of choice will be held on Wednesday, February 26. Team members from the C.A.S.H. School will give parents an introduction to the courses of study available to students who enroll in the school at 7 p.m. at the Public Library.

C.A.S.H. is one of three schools opening next September at the middle schools in Plainfield to give parents and students alternatives to the traditional middle school education. Besides the C.A.S.H. School, the district will offer P.A.T.C.H.E.S. (Academy of Performing Arts, Targeting Creativity and High Educational Standards) and the Ronald H. Brown School of Global Issues.

Housed at the Maxson Middle School, the aim of the school is to provide students with the opportunity to apply the course curriculum to the world of work. The three schools, "which are being phased in this year, will be able to accept a total of 238 students in sixth through eighth grade. The C.A.S.H. School will accept 75 sixth graders next fall. Parents have until March 10 to get their applications in for the schools of choice. All students will be able to enroll in a school of choice in September 1998.

# 1997 NORTH JERSEY MEDICAL SOCIETY, INC. AND AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIP HOLDS DINNER DANCE GALA

**EAST RUTHERFORD**—North Jersey Medical Society, Inc. and the Auxiliary will host their third annual scholarship dinner dance gala at the Meadows Sheraton Hotel in on March 1. The theme for this year's event is "Distinguished Community Service", and seven doctors will be honored for their distinguished community service and medical achievements. The chairperson of this event will be Gustav Henningburg (Positively Black), and the host will be 101.9 FM's Pat Prescott.

African-Americans comprise approximately 3% of all practicing physicians in this country and 1% PH.D.'s in the field of science. The scholarship program established in 1994 provides financial assistance, summer internship, book scholarship and medical school consultation to college bound African-American High School Seniors who are interested in the field of science and other health related careers. Please call (201) 672-7691 for ticket information.

# Forum held to discuss black man's role in the next century

By Daryle Lamont Jenkins

**EAST ORANGE**—A range of topics from education, to health, to police brutality were covered in a public forum Monday, the theme of which was about preparing Black men for the 21st century. The event was sponsored by the New Jersey Muslim March Coalition, and featured prominent figures in the community with a lot to say.

Approximately seventy persons gathered in the New Jersey Black United Front Headquarters on Harrison St. to hear religious figures, community activists, lawyers, state senators, and city councilmen speak to them on this issue of preparedness. Much of the concern of those that attended was affirmative ac-

tion, Christie Whitman's plans for education, which affect the state takeovers in nearby cities like Paterson, Jersey City, and now Newark, has not been warmly received, public perception of black people in general, and the influx of drugs in the community. Moderator Lawrence Hamm noted here that the issue regarding the possible CIA involvement in drug trafficking has quieted down, and the community cannot allow that. "We can't let it die down," he said. "The drugs are still coming in the heroin trade in Burma against Mao Tse Tung's Red China. Regarding the possible CIA involvement, he made particular note of the agency paying "known drug dealer" Panamanian President Manuel Noriega \$200,000, and the timeline

addressed this issue more extensively, detailing the history of the possible link with the CIA. After greeting everyone with a West African chant that signaled when a village was in trouble, and a moment of silence for victims of the crack epidemic, Dowling went on to show how drugs and other substances have been used by governments in the past to pacify insurrection, citing as examples the Opium War in China, alcohol given to the American Indian, and the CIA's involvement in the heroin trade in Burma against Mao Tse Tung's Red China. Regarding the possible CIA involvement, he made particular note of the agency paying "known drug dealer" Panamanian President Manuel Noriega \$200,000, and the timeline

from when the CIA first started their possible dealings, to basketball star's Len Bias' cocaine-related death used to justify \$100 million to the Contras in Nicaragua by Ronald Reagan, to the current issue of drug trafficking in South Central Los Angeles. "This follows a certain pattern of history," Dowling said. "We (shouldn't) look at these things as isolated incidents, and (instead) see them as an ongoing path."

Dowling also connected the drug problem with the specter of big business, pointing out that the community's situation is mostly due to the underhanded dealings of certain companies such as cheap labor overseas

See BLACK MAN FORUM/page 10

# UMDNJ honors Minority Health Council

**NEWARK, NJ**—The 1997 Medal for Distinguished Leadership of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) has been presented to the UMDNJ Minority Health Council.

The medal was awarded to the council during the 13th annual University Day ceremonies held at UMDNJ's Newark campus on January 29. The council was established in 1983 to address the health issues of the state's minority and underserved populations.

George Hampton, UMDNJ vice president of urban and community affairs and chairperson of the Minority Health Council, accepted the medal. The citation noted the leadership role the council has taken in identifying

risk factors associated with increased illness and death among New Jersey's racial and ethnic minorities and in developing specific educational initiatives to help prevent life-threatening complications associated with Thesess such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease, two conditions prevalent in minority populations.

The award also noted the significant role the council has played in influencing public policy decisions related to health care for minority populations, particularly as advisor to the state's Office of Minority Health and through sponsorship of conferences concerning how managed care affects access and

delivery of health care services to minority populations. The council also was commended for "its avid promotion of education opportunities for the

recruitment and retention of minorities into health care professions" and the willingness of its members to serve as professional role models.



The University Medal of Honor was presented to the UMDNJ Minority Health Council by UMDNJ President Dr. Stanley S. Bergen Jr., second from left. Accepting the award on behalf of the 22-member council were from left, Debra Johnson, project coordinator for the council and the UMDNJ Department of Urban and Community Affairs, George Hampton, council president and UMDNJ vice president of urban and community affairs, and Dr. Antonio Tia, a member of the council's executive committee and assistant professor of clinical pediatrics at UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School.

Who are the 100 Most Influential? Call (908) 754-3400 for info.

# Newark Council plans reductions in council and mayors budgets

As the Newark City Council prepares to start budget hearings in March, it announced that it intends to demand a substantial reduction in the 1997 City budget. The only areas exempt from reductions are police and fire services.

"This Council is committed to dramatically reducing the City's forthcoming budget," said Council President Donald Bradley, "and we intend to set the example for all city governments by reducing the overall operations budget for the City Council and City Clerk by the same percentage reduction we ultimately apply to the Administration's spending," Bradley continued. "Furthermore, the City Council will also reduce by 50% its own expenditures for meals, travel

and other such expenses. "After reviewing the budget proposal recently submitted by the Mayor, it is clear that the Council must continue its role as the taxpayer's fiscal watchdog. Every aspect of the Mayor's budget will be subjected to intensive review."

The only areas that cannot and will not be reduced are police and fire protection. Beyond that, every aspect of the budget will be scrutinized in our forthcoming hearings.

One way or another, this Council will fight to insure that this City spends significantly less money in every possible area except public safety."

# North Jersey Black Churchmen launch tutorial program

**NEWARK, NJ**—The Newark-North Jersey Committee of Black Churchmen, in cooperation with the Newark Board of Education will implement a tutorial program for students in grades K-8. The tutorial program, which is free of charge, will provide help in reading, math and writing beginning the week of March 10, 1997. Please choose a site listed below and contact that church for the exact date and time that the tutors will be available to assist your child or children.

We are depending on parents to impress upon their children the program benefits to encourage their participation and to be responsible for picking up their children at the end of each session.

**TUTORIAL SITES (All sites located in Newark)**

- Israel Memorial A.M.E. Church 54 Lincoln St. 923-4489
- St. James A.M.E. Church 588 Martin Luther King Blvd. 622-1344
- Beulah Grove Baptist Church 59-63 Springdale Ave. 482-4054
- Humanity Baptist Church 235 Bergen St. 596-0148
- Trinity Baptist Church 400 South 12th St. 643-2893
- Mt. Olive Baptist Church 401 Avon Ave. 242-8963
- First Mount Zion Baptist Church 186 Thomas St. 242-4173
- Mount Zion Baptist Church 208 Broadway 482-1915
- Union Chapel A.M.E. Church 209 Wainwright St. 926-6430
- Abyssinian Baptist Church 224 West Kamey St. 642-6404
- St. Luke A.M.E. Church 146 Clinton Ave. 621-8112
- Allan A.M.E. Church 56 19th Ave. 373-7753
- Clinton Memorial A.M.E. Church 151 Broadway 481-6142
- Emanuel Baptist Church 228 Chancellor Ave. 926-1500
- First Christian Baptist Church 470 18th Ave. 623-1612
- Shiloh Baptist Church 99 Davenport Ave. 482-1664

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Camden	33,120	Ocean	36,320
Essex	39,520	Passaic	42,160
Gloucester	33,120	Somerset	43,680
Hudson	28,240	Union	39,520
Middlesex	43,680	Warren	30,880

# City News Religious Directory

## Trinity and St. Phillips Cathedral

Church Services: Weekdays - 12:10 p.m. Sun. 8 & 10 a.m.

24 Rector St. Newark, NJ 07102  
201-622-3505

## Tabernacle Baptist Church

Church Services: Sun. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

925 Riddgewood Ave., North Brunswick, NJ 08902  
908-545-4063

## Abundant Life Family Worship Center

Church Services: Sun. 8 - 11 a.m.

45 Hampton St. Metuchen, NJ 08840  
908-545-3897

## Imani Baptist Church

Church Services: Sun. 11:00 a.m.

428 Central Ave. East Orange, NJ 07033  
201-678-7222

## Faith Tabernacle Church

Church Services: Weekdays - Fri. 7:30 p.m. Sun. 10:45 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

1037 Frank Street, Roselle NJ 07068  
201-757-6358

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THROUGH MARCH 29

NEW YORK—Exhibit, "Robert Moherwell on Paper: Gesture, Variation, Continuity," at Columbia University's Wallace Art Gallery For information, call 212-854-7288.

FEBRUARY 26-28

EDISON—Exhibit of art by Charles Godwin, Middlesex County College Center. For info call 908-906-2568.

FEBRUARY 26 &amp; MARCH 1

WESTBURY—Luther Vandross at Westbury Music Fair, Bruin Hollow Rd. For information and tickets, call 516-334-0900.

MARCH 1, 8, 15

MOUNTAINSIDE—"Super Science Discovery Days" for children ages 3-8. Part of the 11th annual Science Fair, Trailside's Nature & Science Center, Coles Ave. & New Providence Rd. For more information, call 908-789-3670.

MARCH 2 THROUGH APRIL 13

CLINTON—Exhibits, "Leaning on the Line: Drawing As Idiosyncratic Art" and "Hannah Pinc: Objects" At the Hunterdon Art Center. For more information, call 908-735-8415.

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

MOUNTAINSIDE—Show, "Remembering Carl Sagan," highlighting the former Parkway native and his accomplishments in astronomy. For more information, call 908-789-3670.

LINCROFT—Bus trip planned for the 1997 Philadelphia Flower Show. Buses will leave from Thompson Park. For more information, call 908-842-4000.

Television program, "Deadbeat Dads", 10 am on NJN.

MARCH 4 THROUGH 9

NEW YORK—1997 Double Grammy nominee Michael Brecker and his all-star group at Birdland. For more information, call 212-924-3916.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4

UPPER MONTCLAIR—"An Evening with Bell Hooks" at Montclair State University. For more information, call 201-655-4333.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

NEW YORK—Film, "The Watermelon Woman," starring Cheryl Dunne, about a twenty-something black lesbian struggling to make a documentary about 1930s Black Film Star Fae Richards. Debut at the Film Forum. For more information, call 212-547-1820.

## Part I

# When We Were Kings

## The Story of the Rumble In the Jungle

"I live in America but Africa is the home of the black man. I was a slave 400 years ago and now I'm going home to fight among my brothers."

- Muhammad Ali

"Say it loud, I'm Black and I'm proud."

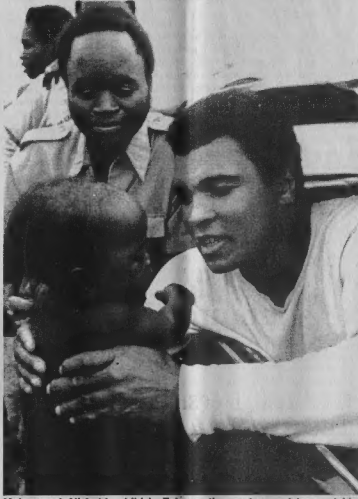
- James Brown

On September 25, 1974, in the wake of one of the greatest political scandals in its history—the ignominious collapse of the Nixon presidency—America was poised to watch a knock-out punch that would redefine it as a nation of champions. In the atmosphere of a three-day circus, in a little known county ruled by a military dictator, on the little noticed continent of Africa, two American fighters held the world's attention. One would capture the world's imagination.

But, four days before the scheduled "Rumble in the Jungle" as the heavyweight championship match up between reigning title holder George Foreman and challenger Muhammad Ali was called, the promoters announced that there would be a six week delay. And in that time span, as the international media took in the rhythms of the music and the mysterious beauty of the land, and as anticipation for the fight mounted an entirely new phenomenon evolved: black Americans saw their own generational crossroads reflected in the contrasting images of the two men who had returned to Africa to fight.

DASFilms presents a David Sonnenberg Production, Muhammad Ali in "When We Were Kings," a film by Leon Gast and Taylor Hackford. The film is a dramatic account of one of the most influential events of an eventful decade, with George Foreman, Don King, James Brown, B.B. King, Spike Lee, Norman Mailer and George Plimpton. Directed by Leon Gast, the film is produced by Gast, Sonnenberg and Hackford for release by Gramercy Pictures.

"There was a time when you'd call a black person 'African,' you'd better be ready to fight," notes Spike Lee, one of the film's narrators, along with Norman Mailer and George Plimpton. Muhammad Ali's arrival in Zaire changed that.



Muhammad Ali holds child in Zaire as throngs turn out to greet him

### ABOUT THE FIGHT AND THE FANFARE

"The fight meant so much to Africans because there had never been a cultural event that focused so much international attention on them," explains director Gast. "Muhammad Ali was attuned to that; George Foreman wasn't. Both the fighters and their entourages kept saying, 'From slave ship to championship. We were taken

from Africa as slaves and now we're coming back as champions.' But when Ali said it, you knew it was more than just hype. I don't think there was anyone in Africa who didn't know what he stood for."

"Prior to Ali, if an athlete was controversial, he was controversial in his personal life, like Babe Ruth or Jake LaMotta," says Taylor Hackford. "Yet there he was, the reigning boxing champion, pointing a finger at America and its racism. He believed in something and he used his professional standing to let the world know about it. He pushed until he pushed too far."

Arguably the most influential athlete and entertainer of the modern era, Ali had risen to an international prominence that no sports figure had ever attained. His fighting skills—a blend of power and speed—were favorably compared to those of the legendary

Joe Louis. But Louis wasn't around during the age of satellite television broadcasts and, had he been, his skills with the media could not have rivaled Ali's. Ali was a master at manipulating the press.

But the good fortune of Ali's birth in the electronic age was offset by the curses of racism and Vietnam. The war was taking a disproportionate toll on black soldiers and the majority of black leaders—even the courageous Martin Luther King, Jr.—were slow to draw parallels between the racism at home and the racial imbalance in combat.

But the nation's premier television sports hero was sharing the six o'clock news with the first televised war and Ali had little regard for the sanctity of boundaries between the sports and news segments of network programming. Ali invented the "In your face" interview style. And he was willing to say things that no one else in his position had ever been willing to say.

"Very few black athletes had ever

talked the way Muhammad Ali talked without fear of something happening to them or their careers," notes Spike Lee. And one of the things he talked about was Vietnam. "Muhammad Ali said that 'No Vietcong ever called me nigger.'"

Ali refused to take the step forward when called for induction into U.S. Military service, claiming that such a step would profane his vows as a minister in the Nation of Islam. As a result, the world's greatest boxer was stripped of his titles and convicted by a criminal court of violating laws that violated his beliefs.

WHEN WE WERE KINGS is the story of Muhammad Ali's greatest fight—the fight to re-establish his place in sports history and to reclaim his right to speak out for his people. He was to accomplish this while in a contest with the most overpowering boxer he would ever face.

Next week, Part 2 of the Rumble in the Jungle

## Zimbabwe's Black Umfolosi to perform at MSU on March 7



MONTCLAIR, NJ—Black Umfolosi, an eight-person a cappella group from Zimbabwe sometimes seems like a younger, smaller version of the South African group Ladysmith Black Mambazo. From Bulawayo, the capital of the Ndebele-speaking region of Zimbabwe, Black Umfolosi perform a high-energy, spirited mix of traditional Zulu war dances and haunting mbaube songs from South Africa. In contrast to the energetic frenzy of their traditional war dances, their a cappella singing style features shimmering vocal harmonies, stirring, soulful solos and captivating songs of love and modern society. Their performances last season in New York and Boston garnered high praise from critics and audiences alike: "Umfolosi dazzles with fancy foot and song work," *The Boston Globe*; "The evening was a sublime mix of the traditional, the updated and the just plain fun," *New York Times*. They will be performing at Montclair State University's Memorial Auditorium on March 7 at 8 pm. For information and tickets, call 201 655 5112.

## 700 turn out for Masons 15th Annual Breakfast

Continued from page 1

Keynote speaker, William H. Wall, US District Judge called on black Americans to stop telling lies. "Let young people know that sports and entertainment are not the way out of the communities' economic problems or out of the problems that face us as a people," he said.

The Black American Heritage Flag was presented by Richard McMillan, Sr. The United Youth of New Jersey Drill Team performed and the Marion Canty Jr. Ensemble entertained the audience.



Clifford Alford, Master of Ceremony and Congress President



United Youth of New Jersey Drill Team directed by Charlotte Brown



Newark Councilman Donald Tucker

# Black Church Arsons

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# “Be part of the solution”

“Good morning! I’m glad to see so many of you here today and I look forward to working with you all in the future to help more of our young people find their reasons to excel. I want to talk for just a minute about why Say ‘YES’ to Your Future is so important and why it is necessary for us all to be part of the solution to the problem of declining achievement among young people in urban schools.

“Say ‘YES’ to Your Future is more than another program with a catchy name. Say ‘YES’ to Your Future is about adults taking responsibility to instill in our young people the attitudes and behaviors necessary for success and helping them find their own reasons to excel. Very often, we as adults want to tell our young people that they are not to blame, it’s our fault and we’re working to make things better for you.

“Well, with a growing deficit, decreasing government support and an economy that funnels resources into the wealthiest segments of our society, it doesn’t seem that adults are in any position to make things better for anyone. And you know what, we keep feeding our kids the notion that things would be better if...we build new schools, with a new administration, when we get on the Internet.

“Well from what I have seen in traveling to schools around the country and witnessing first-hand what is going on in our country today, nothing is going to make a difference for our young people unless we teach them to make a difference for themselves. See, when they get out into the ‘real world’ no one is going to care what our students did or did not learn in the classroom. When they get outside of our classrooms, no one will care that our young have been wallowing in the valleys while other children play on the mountaintops. All that will matter is that they compete on the world playing field. Instead of teaching our young people to complain about an uneven playing field we must

challenge ourselves to teach our young people to create opportunities for themselves.

“Say ‘YES’ to Your Future is about teaching our young people to make it despite the odds. It’s about teaching them that success is not random, it is a calculated choice. People succeed because they have the desire to succeed, the drive to overcome obstacles and the determination to make things happen. Say ‘YES’ to Your Future is about unlocking for our young people the recipe for success.

“When we all leave here today, we must all adopt a mission that is simple: to help our young people Say ‘YES’ to their Future by helping them find their reasons to excel. Within the next two weeks, we will be mailing out follow-up information to each person here regarding next steps. In the mean time, please think about how you will be part of the solution. We ask every religious, civic and community organization to adopt Say ‘YES’ to Your Future as a theme for youth programs and to host Say ‘YES’ to Your Future activities and events. We ask schools to create Say ‘YES’ to Your Future learning environments in which students are charged to become independent, motivated learners who take charge of their success. We ask corporations to invest in our urban economies by creating a new generation of young people who will know how to create wealth for themselves. See, if we all equip our youth with the tools for success, we will not have to worry about what they have a job, are they saying no to drugs, are they stopping the violence. If we equip our children with the tools for success, our young people will be able to build their own bridges to lead themselves into the next century. Just say ‘no’ will truly be an unnecessary comment. Our young people will want to say ‘NO’ because they have so much to say ‘YES’ to. Our young people will be saying ‘YES’...yes to themselves, yes to their accomplishments and yes to the bright future that lies ahead.”



Jill L. Johnson, associate publisher of YES Magazine and developer of the Say “YES” to your Future initiative, gives remarks at the kickoff.

## Educators, Business & Community Leaders, Politicians join to help youth Say ‘YES’ to their future

Photo highlights of Say YES to your Future Kickoff Rally by Glen Frieson

Continued from page 1

their support in the past and their continuing support in the future.”

Individuals spoke to how they were able to use YES Magazine in their work, and how it can be used. One of them was Teresa Peters, a supervisor at Asbury Park High School. She said teachers at her school like to use it as a motivational tool and to enhance communication. She also says her students are appreciative for YES because the articles are relative to their life experience. Says Peters, “How boring it is sometimes to sit in a classroom and have to read all factual information that you can’t relate to. YES brings it home.”

Elaine Harrington, president of the NJ NAACP and cousin of Malcolm X for whom this school is named, welcomed the NAACP’s support of YES, pledging that every NAACP youth unit in the state, as well as Patsie Community College will receive a subscription of YES, and a vice president will be reassigned to work with youth, and in particular with YES Magazine. “They (the students) need to know that this great team who look like us, talk like us, act like us, think like us...here they are,” she said, holding up the magazine.

Newark’s City Councilman was represented by State Senator Ron Rice, another alumnus from the school, who presented the Johnsons with a proclamation from the Newark City Council, one of several they have received from Newark, Jersey City, East Orange, the State Senate and the Governor’s office, in addition to the letters from world leaders throughout the state. “I come from corporate America,” he said, “and I think it’s very important that you continue support and spread the good news to your colleagues in corporate America.”

Corporate America, a longtime supporter of YES, reaffirmed its support for the magazine and its mission. Shirley Ward of PSE&G talked about the “Diversity Day” they sponsored in September in which employees interned with students, a event many of those employees found rewarding after being inundated with negatives accounts from mainstream news sources. “If our employees are influenced by this negative publicity,” Ward explained, “can you imagine how these students feel?”

“Not only do (the Johnsons) have

a vision, but they made a commitment to do something about it,” she continued. “When they publish YES Magazine, they said to our students, ‘There’s children just like you in urban communities that are achieving.’ And it’s not bad to be an achiever, it’s good to be an achiever. It’s not only good...it’s great.”

Jan Johnson also commented about those who took time from their busy schedules to take a stand for youth helping them to say “YES” to their future. Among those attending were Maurice Brown of Bell Atlantic and Joe Durham of AT&T, both representing the Corporate Forum, Dr. Winston Scott, MD, president of the North Jersey Medical Society, Frederick Toa of Hoechst Celanese, Dr. Alma Plagg, Kathleen Smallwood-Johnson, president of the Trenton NAACP, Z. Wayne Johnson of New Jersey Transit, Professor Daine Grey, Rich Woods and Ed Glasspool of Pepsi-Co, Dale Caldwell of Deloitte & Touche, Richard Thigpen, Executive Director of New Jersey Democratic Committee, Anna Lusterberg, of Bell Atlantic, Dwight Giles, 10,000 Mentors, Annette Hubbard of the Concerned Black Nurses, Glenda Garcia, Focus Hispanic Center and Dan Moroney, New Jersey State Board of Education.

Jill Johnson, creator of the Say YES to your Future initiative and associate publisher of YES magazine shared with the participants the urgency to get involved with this youth empowerment wrapped up the event with her remarks (See remarks above).

The event also featured a video that chronicled YES Magazine and its future direction. The presentation was well received by those in attendance. “I was very impressed with this,” said Laksmi Nor of Community School District 17 in Brooklyn, who also gave remarks that morning. “We are already using YES in our schools and I think that the next step for both Newark and New York is for business people and community people to help put the magazine in more of our schools so that it can reach more young people.”

Trance Cowen, a 16-year-old member of the color guard, also saw the event as a positive and helpful one. “The politicians say they care about the kids and about the community,” he said. “I think they are going to help a lot.”



Principal Mary G. Bennett and student leaders Fuquan Jackson and Arita Aponish welcome the audience



YES Communications President, Jan M. Johnson listens as Publisher Henry Johnson gives remarks



Ben O’Neil, Newark Schools, Henry Johnson, Henry McCloud, Dir of Upward Bound at NJIT and Lavelle Bux-Alexander, Assistant Director of Talent Search, NJIT



Presiding Bishop William T. Cahoon of the Church of God and Christ



Shirley Ward, Manager of Community Affairs for PSE&G gives remarks



Laksmi Nor of Community District 17 in Brooklyn tells how they use YES



State Senator and Newark City Councilman Ron Rice addresses the audience



William Wimberly, president 100 Black Men discusses Say “YES” with Henry Johnson



Cynthia Moore Regional Manager for Corporate Affairs of Anheuser Busch



Ernestine Myers, Area Marketing Specialist for Bell Atlantic



Carrie Lafeyre, Community Initiatives GPU, Toni Vessey, Counselor and Teresa Peters, Chairman of English Department both from Asbury Park High



Kabili Taveri, Assistant to the Mayor, of Jersey City



Philip Thomas of NAJAC chats with Al Bundy of Project 2000



Henry Johnson greets Al-Malik Williams, President of Newark Youth 2000.



Malcolm X Shabazz High School Color Guard



Malcolm X Shabazz High School Chorus



Special group of the Malcolm X Shabazz High School Band

# BUSINESS CALENDAR

## WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 26

**NEW YORK**—Appearance by author Camille Lavington (*You're Only Got Three Seconds: How to Make the Right Impression in Your Business and Social Life*). Barnes & Noble Bookstore in Rockefeller Center. For more information, call 212-727-4810.

## TUESDAY, MARCH 4

**SOMERSET**—Business Card Exchange 5:30-7:30 pm at the Somerset Farms. For more information, call (908) 722-1552.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 7

**UPPER MONTCLAIR**—Seminar, "Marketing Strategies for Non-Profit Organizations," offered by Montclair State University's Non-Profit Management Institute, 3 pm Dickson Hall ME. For more information, call 201-655-4333.

**BOUND BROOK**—Seminar, "Break the Rules...and Close More Sales" at Sandler Sales Institute. For more information, call 800-968-0233.

## MARCH 9-12

**SEACALCUS**—Conference, "MOBE," The tenth annual symposium sponsored by the MOBE (Marketing Opportunities in Black Entertainment) Institute. At the Sheraton Meadowlands. For more information, call 212-938-1888.

## TUESDAY, MARCH 11

**WESTFIELD**—Workshop, "How to Realize your Retirement Dreams," 7-11 pm at the YMCA, Clark St. For more information, call Peter Gushon or Steve Tebelle, 1-800-347-5018.

## Entrepreneur's Corner

# Guide to generating your first \$10,000

By Pierre A. Clark

You'd be surprised how many well-capitalized businesses open their doors and never make a dollar in profits. They have all the appointments—the location, inventory, phone service, business cards, brochures, even staff—but they operate at a deficit for their entire existence until the money runs out.

Studies have shown that 60 percent of all businesses fail within three years, 80 percent within five years. These same studies identify reasons for their failure: management deficiencies, undercapitalization. But most of these studies don't address the fundamental reason: most of these businesses don't make money.

Most entrepreneurs will tell you that nothing beats the feeling of earning that first dollar in their new business (that's why so many of them frame the first one they earn).

A small minority of businesses—less than one enterprise in 10—manage to generate consistent income from the day they open and continue to generate income at high-growth levels throughout the life of the enterprise.

How can you design your business to earn consistent income from the first day your firm opens? If you do it by developing an aggressive business development strategy, by designing your firm to be an income generator. You use some simple, low-cost client enticement strategies to create mindshare and marketplace for

your business. The secret to effectively generating income is to create situations where potential clients see and experience what you offer, where people are sold on the quality, applicability and reliability of what you sell.

Here's a seven-step high-profit strategy that will enable you to generate a minimum of \$10,000 in first-month income:

1. A month before your official opening, devise a promotional marketing plan centered on three different events: a) a clients-only preview event, b) a grand opening event, and c) a free seminar/workshop based on your specific product/service.

2. Send a two-page news release to all local newspapers, radio and TV stations in your area describing your business, the services and products it offers, a brief biography of yourself and the other officers/owners (if any) and details about the grand-opening event.

3. Create and mail invitations for the clients-only preview event which will occur a week before your official grand-opening event. You develop an invitation list of 125 prospective clients by listing 25 friends and asking each of them to recommend 5 others. The strategy: offer your products or services to clients who purchase at the preview event at a discount (15 percent to 20 percent) off your normal prices/fees.

4. Offer special promotional rates to people who attend your grand opening event. If you sell products, offer free samples or a product discount

(5% to 10%). If you sell services, offer an hour of free needs valuation/consultation services. Distribute brochures/business cards and a press package.

5. Prepare a mailing to promote your seminar/workshop event to the prospects list you developed for your clients-only preview event. Charge a fee for the seminar but offer to deduct the seminar fee from any products or services purchased at your firm over the next six months. Ask each invitee to bring one other person to the seminar/workshop.

6. For the first month after your grand opening event, do weekly mailings of at least 100 flyers/brochures and distribution of 100 flyers/brochures within a one-mile radius of your business location. (If you are operating a home-based business, rent a business address and establish a 24-hour contact number.)

7. For each client you sign up, ask for a deposit of at least 1/3 for any services you offer. Full payment if you are selling an in-stock product, half-down if you are selling a product you need to order.

Using the seven strategies we've outlined above, you can expect to sell and gain 25 to 50 new customers within the first month, which, depending on the type of product you are selling, can generate as much as \$10,000 in income your first month (including full payments and deposits). How do you know these strategies work? We know because we've used these strategies and we know hundreds of others that have used them. Put them to work for you, we know they will work for you as well.

# Bank where you shop

**HACKENSACK**—It is now possible for residents of the Newark area to shop for groceries and financial services at the same location. On Saturday, February 22 Summit Bank will celebrate the grand opening of its newest in-store branch located within the Pathmark Supermarket at 281-295 Ferry Street in Newark, New Jersey.

"In addition to offering a full range of financial services, the Newark in-store branch will provide customers with the time-saving convenience of one-stop shopping, extended hours in which to do their banking, and a streamlined approach to opening accounts and processing transactions," stated Sabry Joseph Mackoon, senior executive vice president of retail banking, at Summit Bank.

The in-store branch will be open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and

Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Even when closed, the Newark in-store branch will offer banking services through an automated teller machine and a telephone that will connect callers directly to the bank's Customer Call Center.

Summit Bank is committed to providing its customers with alternative delivery services. According to Jim Dowd, director and vice president of In-Store Banking at Summit Bank, "Bringing banking services closer to where customers live, work, shop or play is one of the bank's key objectives."

In addition to offering free food, prizes, and the opportunity to win \$100 supermarket giveaways and a four day, three night family vacation, the Newark in-store branch also offers several product promotions in conjunction with its grand opening. For additional information, call the in-store branch at 201-465-8995.

# NAACP head, Microsoft win minority business awards

By Maggie Jackson  
AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)**—NAACP head Kweisi Mfume received star treatment from minority business owners for pulling the troubled civil rights group out of debt in less than a year. Mfume was applauded repeatedly as he accepted a special achievement

award Wednesday from the National Minority Business Council at a luncheon attended by more than 500 business owners and representatives.

Ten business, media and non-profit concerns—including Microsoft, Quaker Oats and United Technologies—were lauded for their work to further minority businesses.

"We are awarding Mfume today because of his short but distinguished career with the NAACP," said Council founder John F. Robinson. "He's not a man of image, but a man of substance."

The praise came days after Mfume presided over the NAACP's annual meeting, where he rallied support for his leadership amid skepticism from members.

Although most give him credit for erasing a \$4.5 million debt, many members question whether Mfume has done enough to restore the group after years of financial and leadership scandals.

In March, Mfume wanted to wait a month before deciding whether to boycott Texaco after a tape suggested racism at the company. The Rev. Jesse Jackson pressed for an immediate boycott, a strategy credited with helping force the company to settle with workers for \$176 million.

Mfume, however, defended his work. "We're on the right road," he said in an interview before the luncheon. "The conclusion of the (annual) meeting was the beginning of a new NAACP."

At the luncheon, there was no formal mention of the discrimination settlement at Texaco and little focus on problems facing minorities in the business world.

Attention centered on how far minorities have come. Minority-owned businesses increased 62 percent to 1.96 million from 1987 to 1992, according to the Census Bureau.

Texaco underscored its efforts to reach out to minorities by sending more than a half-dozen employees to the luncheon.

"The company is extremely interested in developing relations with minority businesses," said Paul Myers, a real estate purchase manager. His department intends to place approximately 13 percent of its budget with minority firms this year.

Keynote speaker Edward D. Miller, senior vice chairman of Chase Manhattan, said companies must move more to foster diversity in the workplace and support minority businesses "not only because it's the right thing to do."

"Diversity is very critical in ensuring we have true competitiveness in the global economy," said Miller. He said Chase was working to broaden its suppliers and provide small suppliers with financial help.

"It can be done," he said. "There are no excuses."

Microsoft Corp. won an award for investing \$5 million in an online initiative to help small businesses become computer-savvy. Most minority businesses are small, according to the Council.

The three other companies to win awards for supporting minority businesses were: Niagara Mohawk Power Corp., a large buyer of goods and services from minority- and women-owned businesses in New York; Quaker Oats Co., for supporting Council initiatives; and United Technologies, for supporting minority business development.

C. Otley Strategies, One Source Computer, accountant Paula Samuel Milligan and Techniserv Data Corp. were named outstanding minority businesses. The Network Journal and The Low-Income Family Foundation were also recognized.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

## LEGAL NOTICE

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR A ONE YEAR AUDIT OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF PLAINFIELD

The Housing Authority of the Township of Plainfield is seeking proposals from qualified independent Auditors (IA), licensed in NJ in the State of New Jersey, to perform a comprehensive financial audit of the HOUSING AUTHORITY OF PLAINFIELD for the year 1996. The audit is to be completed by March 31, 1996.

A copy of the Scope of Services and Evaluation Criteria for the audit is available at the Housing Authority of the Township of Plainfield, 150 East First Street, Plainfield, New Jersey 07060-5000.

The Officers proposed selected bid breakdown, hourly rates and not-to-exceed maximum cost estimate will be considered, in addition to other evaluation factors in determining the Offerer most advantageous to the Authority.

All documents, books and records are on file and shall be available for review, prior to responding to the Request for Proposal, at the Offices of the Housing Authority of Plainfield at the address cited above.

Proposals shall be received until 5:00 p.m. Thursday, March 13, 1997 and submitted to:

Carolyn Reese  
Executive Director  
HOUSING AUTHORITY OF PLAINFIELD  
150 East First Street  
Plainfield, New Jersey 07060

Proposals shall be submitted in triplicate in one envelope containing the Technical Proposal/Qualifications and the Cost Proposal. The envelope of the Cost Proposal shall be clearly marked "ONE YEAR AUDIT FYE 1996".

No proposal shall be withdrawn for a period of one month after the opening of the proposals. If the proposal is not accepted, the proposal shall be returned to the Housing Authority of Plainfield.

The Housing Authority of Plainfield reserves the right to waive any information on the proposals and the right to accept or reject the event that less than two (2) proposals are received.

CAROLYN REESE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
FEE: \$66.20

LEGAL NOTICE  
Separate sealed proposals will be received by the Morris County Housing Authority on Tuesday, April 29, 1997 at the County of Morris Courthouse, 100 North Main Street, Morris, New Jersey 07960.

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# Joe Clark speaks his mind on Ebionics, Jesse Jackson

FREDONIA, N.Y. (AP) — Joe Clark, the baseball bat-wielding principal who earned national recognition for turning around a New Jersey high school, has sharp words for ebionics and the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

"People are being tricked into the nonsense that ... (ebionics) is part of black heritage," Clark told a standing-room-only crowd Tuesday at the State University of New York College at Fredonia. "It's a way of covering up mediocrity in schools. Just ask any successful black kid he/she 'be' speaking Ebionics."

Clark, now director of the Essex County Youth House, a juvenile detention center in Newark, N.J., said ebionics "has to do with your socioeconomic background and saying what you hear."

"If someone came into the jail where I work and started talking ebionics, I would lock him up for life,"

he said. Clark was named one of the nation's 10 "Principals of Leadership" in 1986 for his work at Eastside High School in Paterson, N.J. His story was made into the 1989 feature film "Lean on Me," starring Morgan Freeman.

Clark dismissed the need for people to take an active role in their communities and criticized leaders like Jackson for talking a good game.

"You want to march?" said Clark, referring to the recent Million Man March. "Come with me and march into our inner cities ... and try to prove that people don't have to steal, murder and pillage."

Clark dismissed racial differences. "Black is not beautiful. White is not beautiful. Beauty is not skin deep. It's something manufactured inside of you," he said. "My grandfather would always say, 'A black chick will bite you just as fast as a white one will.'"

# NAACP makes statement on police brutality

WASHINGTON, DC — NAACP President Kweisi Mfume released the following statement after a major demonstration and a meeting in Washington, D.C. with Richard Roberts, Assistant Chief, Crime Section, Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department. NAACP Pittsburgh Branch President Tim Stevens, the parents of murder victim Jonny Gammage and activists from around the country:

"The NAACP is calling on the President and the Attorney General to suspend any and all federal funding

for local police departments across the country where there are significant and unresolved cases of alleged police brutality or where there is a current federal investigation of such a matter.

"Police brutality must be addressed by the highest powers in government if everyday citizens are to believe that their civil rights have value. We will petition the leadership of Congress as well, to convene appropriate public hearings on this matter as soon as possible."

# Black publishers urge newspaper sponsored educational summits to encourage student achievement

— Supporters say parents, educators, religious and community leaders have lost ground to celebrities in influencing what their children are learning

ST. MAARTEN — Publishers of African American Newspapers across the US were urged recently to develop "Educational Summits" in their communities aimed at convincing Black students that "they are achiever" and capable of achieving even more.

"We need to create a new message for our children based on achievement, on faith, on personal responsibility and on the knowledge that young people can succeed," said Dr. Henry Johnson, publisher of the "City News" in New Jersey. Johnson spoke to a receptive audience at the recent National Newspaper Publishers

Association's (NNPA) Mid-Winter Workshop in St. Maarten in the Caribbean.

This new message, Johnson said, would uphold the Educational Summit's contention that parents, teachers and community leaders should determine what African American students will be taught, not celebrities, sports figures or popular vocalists.

"Our children are succeeding today in many areas," he said, "especially in music, dance, and sports. We need to capture the motivational drives that so many of our children apply to these pursuits and make certain they are applied to the sciences, mathematics, to law and to literature."

He said: "We need to emphasize that we have many people in our communities who have worked themselves out of poverty. We have many successes and this needs to be pointed

out to our children. We need to demonstrate that we love all our children — not just the rap stars, the musicians and the sports heroes. We love them all."

Johnson said that his publication was "setting up a demonstration model of the Educational Summit for New Jersey" during late Spring. At that time, he said, the publication, parents and community leaders would make their voices heard on the basics of educating children. Johnson called for Educational Summits conducted by some of the more than 200 NNPA members active with the Mid Winter Workshop.

Supporters of the newspapers' role as summit organizer agreed that there are no better communications instruments for this purpose than newspapers.

"We can all see that popular singers can be frequently be more influential



City News Publisher, Henry Johnson and NNPA President Dorothy Leavelle

in deciding what our children are learning — through lyrics in popular songs — than their parents or their teachers," one publisher said.

"Parents and community leaders are most important to the growth and education of children," said Frank Gomez, Director, Public Programs, Philip Morris Companies Inc., a principal supporter of the NNPA. "The local newspaper can be a vitally important link in the community leadership chain when it provides information on community problems and helps in creating solutions."

A doctor of educational psychology, Johnson worked extensively in various institutions of higher education and in the public schools before founding City News in 1983 with his wife and co-founder of City News, Jan Edgerton Johnson.

The City News made history last May when it honored the "100 Most Influential" New Jersey-based groups and individuals.

Heading the community-based newspaper's list and prominent at the awards ceremony at Newark Airport's Marlow Hotel were: Governor Christine Todd Whitman; Newark Congressman Donald Payne (D-NJ); Newark Mayor Sharpe James; NAACP Board Chairman Myrtle Ever-Williams and WNBC-TV investigative reporter Ti Hua Chang.

# Black man's role in the next century

Continued from page 5

employment opportunities with in our sector, then we're going to have to fight for better employment opportunities overseas."

Minister Abdul Khadir Muhammad of Nation of Islam Mosque #25 spoke directly to those men claiming their role, saying that the reference of women in derogatory manner, engaging in the use of drugs and alcohol, and homosexual relationship of the black man, are not only insulting that role. "If we talk about the role of the black man, there has to be a certain type of role that we can all fit in," he said. "However when I listen and watch the news, and begin to just see some of the problems that afflict us as black people in America, the bottom line is that if the black man has not gotten himself together to get up, and begin to do something for himself and change his lifestyle, then how long will it take?"

"We are talking about a corrective measure, things we must do to get our life on the right course," he later said. "We cannot continue with business as usual."

The issue of police brutality was dealt with by DeLacy Davis, president of Black Cop's Against Police Brutality (BCAP). Davis, a police officer who has experienced harassment and death threats by fellow police officers, thanked members of the audience and the community who he said embraced him six years ago when he didn't understand his role was as a Black police officer. "Because you gave me the confidence to step out on faith, and with God," he said. "I am going through the rights of passage to become the man I am now."

Davis said that the problem in the 21st century will be Black police officers, and how pressure, especially public pressure must be used to keep rough officers in line. "You take a kid off the streets 18 years old, can't find a job anywhere, you tell him, 'I want you to go along to get along,' you give him a \$30,000 a year job and all you tell him to say is, 'I didn't see anything, we're all blue!'" he said. "Remember you are turning him out, just like a drug dealer turns out an addict," Davis continued. "You give him the drugs for free at first, but after the first blow on his pipe they'll tell him to come to get another hit, just like a Negro cop!"

He noted that many of the death threats he has received were from black police officers and that the recent cases of uses of force involved black police officers on black suspects.

With affirmative action taking some very heavy hits this year, State Senator Wynona Lipman reminded everyone to keep watch of what happens. She pointed to the case in the US Supreme Court from Piscataway that named a teacher, claimed "reverse discrimination" after she was passed over for a promotion. "If she wins," Sen. Lipman said, "one of the reasons why we might lose affirmative action will be from New Jersey."

The senator also took note of the

introduction of Assembly bill A2523 that is similar to California's Proposition 209 abolishing affirmative action. "This governor said that she is not going to sign this bill and not going back on affirmative action," Sen. Lipman said, "but in the throes of a very important election year, if it happens to pass the Assembly and the Senate, who knows?"

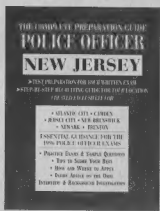
Others that spoke were Assemblyman Craig Stanley, who called for the building of black business, and Wilbur Haddock of the Education Law Center, who warned of the under-

handed attack on education by "the new via charter schools and 'school choice.' Both believed that New Jersey needs a governor that will be receptive to the needs of the community, and a Legislative majority that needs to not only be receptive, but in regards to the Legislature's refusal to comply with the Supreme Court order to equalize school funding, obey the law.

According to Lawrence Hamm, this is the first of a series of forums on this issue to be held in the near future. Future dates will be announced.

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